

MINUTES  
Cambria County Planning Commission  
May 21, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Cambria County Planning Commission was held on Thursday, May 21, 2026, at 12 noon, at the Young Peoples Community Center, Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

Chairwoman Melissa Komar called the meeting to order.

PRESENT

Melissa Komar  
Paul Kundrod  
Scott Eberhart  
Heather McCloskey  
Diane Waksmunski

ABSENT

Charles Koren  
Debra Orner  
Ron Rovansek  
Shawn Veneskey

STAFF

Mark Lazzari  
Colleen Bukowski  
Shanna Sosko  
Jacob Zerby

GUESTS

Commissioner Thomas Chernisky

There being no changes to the agenda, Ms. Komar called for continuation of the meeting as per posted agenda.

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Kundrod made a motion that the April 16, 2026 meeting minutes be approved. The motion was seconded by Ms. Waksmunski and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The May Treasurer's Report was read by the Executive Director, who noted that expenses listed for payment approval were standard salary, taxes, and operating expenses. Commission members present reviewed the monthly report and presented no comments or questions. The May Treasurer's Report, including expenses listed for payment, was approved on a motion by Ms. McCloskey, seconded by Mr. Eberhart. The motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORTS/PROJECT UPDATES

Mr. Lazzari commented on staff involvement with the Allegheny Ridge Heritage Area Management Plan Update and the Laurel Highlands Conservation Landscape (LHCL) Initiative. He stated that both of these initiatives are regional in nature and each is expected to have a positive effect on Cambria County. He explained that Commission staff has offered to serve as a liaison between the Heritage Area and the Cambria County communities located along the Main Line Canal corridor. Mr. Lazzari stated that the Commission's involvement with the LHCL Initiative will promote LHCL's efforts to revitalize communities, strengthen local economies, and conserve and enhance local ecological, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Noting that the City of Johnstown Comprehensive Plan has been officially adopted, Mr. Lazzari stated that the CCPC has been named a key implementation partner as the City undertakes action items identified in the Plan.

#### West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Sosko reported that progress on the West Hills Regional Comprehensive Plan continues with sustained cooperation among the five municipalities, CCPC staff, consultant representatives, and steering committee and focus group members. She noted that Commission staff has been discussing the role the CCPC will have in implementing the plan. Mr. Lazzari stated that he anticipates Commission staff to provide guidance and technical assistance to empower municipal representatives to implement goals and objectives of the plan.

#### Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan

Mr. Zerby reported that the consultant for this transit plan is in the process of compiling survey responses and discussions regarding vision and goal statements for the plan are continuing. Mr. Lazzari noted that continued coordination on this plan will remain a priority, especially in light of the fact that CamTran's current Executive Director is transitioning into retirement.

#### CamTran - Local Match Funding Study

Ms. Komar stated that she, as CCPC Chair, Mr. Lazzari, and Commissioner Scott Hunt, have been actively involved in discussions and meetings with CamTran personnel regarding CamTran's Local Match Funding Study. Noting that Commission staff was instrumental in securing funding through an open-ended PennDOT agreement to retain Michael Baker and Associates to prepare the study, Mr. Lazzari stressed that funding for this study in not being funded through the Commission's Unified Planning Work Program and CCPC staff is not responsible for developing a viable funding scenario for CamTran. In response to an inquiry from Ms. McCloskey regarding the CCPC's continued participation in this initiative, Ms. Komar explained that the objective of the CCPC's involvement is to keep the lines of communication open among all interested parties and municipalities. Both Ms. Komar and Mr. Lazzari expressed their confidence in Michael Baker & Associates in developing feasible funding options with justifiable County and municipal contribution scenarios. Ms. Komar commented that the consultant has been requested to provide comparison funding examples utilized by mass transit operations across the Commonwealth. Commissioner Chernisky, Commission members, and staff acknowledged that public transportation plays a vital role in the quality of life and economic development of the County, however, several concerns were voiced regarding future County and municipal funding commitments to continue mass transit operations at the current level. Ms. Komar reiterated the importance of the data collection and the recommendations which will be presented in the funding study being prepared by Michael Baker and Associates.

#### County Bike/Pedestrian Plan Update

The Executive Director stated that the update to the County Bike/Pedestrian Plan will be completed by CCPC staff. He indicated that discussions regarding the plan's focus and development have been initiated.

## NEW BUSINESS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Mr. Lazzari commented that staff will be attending the upcoming Aerium Innovation Summit at the John Murtha Regional Airport and will also participate in Showcase for Commerce sponsored by the Cambria Regional Chamber of Commerce. Commission members noted that staff attendance and involvement in these types of events foster public outreach and awareness of the Planning Commission's role in local and county government. The Executive Director noted that staff participation in Johnstown's Downtown Clean-up Day, focused on the Johnstown Greenway Trail.

### Cambria County Municipal Infrastructure Assistance Program (MIAP) - Round 3

Mr. Zerby reported that the County Commissioners approved the projects and funding recommendations submitted by the CCPC under the County's Municipal Assistance Infrastructure Program (MIAP), as discussed and approved at the Commission's April meeting. Mr. Zerby commented that although Blacklick Township officials were disappointed that their project had not been considered for funding, he offered staff technical assistance in adjusting the township's application to reflect a more feasible funding request and encouraged officials to submit a revised application under the next MIAP funding round.

### July CCPC Meeting

The Executive Director suggested cancelling the July meeting, as had been common practice prior to 2024. Commission members present were in general consensus of cancelling the meeting and a final decision in this regard will be made at the Commission's June meeting.

### UPJ Grant Application Support

Noting that UPJ is in the process of preparing a grant application seeking funding for the purchase of two drones for use in autonomous sub-canopy flights, Mr. Zerby stated that Commission staff collaborated in identifying practical uses for the drone technology. He explained that a suggested project is a partnership with PennDOT to utilize the drones to generate digital twins of hillsides along highway and mass transit routes to compare and monitor changes in the hillside landscape and identify types of vegetation that could possibly firm the geologic structure of the hillside in efforts to mitigate potential rockfall situations.

### Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Zerby stated that a public meeting on the draft FFY 2027-2030 Highway and Bridge Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update, which includes highway and bridge projects, public transit improvement projects, CamTran's Program of Projects, and the associated air quality conformity report, will be held today at 1:00 p.m. He explained that the public comment period for this update is from May 18, 2026 through June 18, 2026.

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Waksmunski, seconded by Mr. Kundrod. Motion passed unanimously.